

The Last Days (Part 3: The Signs of His Coming) **Matthew 24:29-35**

I want to acknowledge that these signs get us ready... even though we don't know how long we will have to wait. We need our hearts stirred to be awakened to God's work toward this world in the future, but also to continue being God's witnesses by proclaiming the gospel truth in this world in the present. "In those days" is a technical OT term for the last days and Jesus is saying it's so close. This is something that will change the world forever.

5. The Signs in the HEAVENS *(Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25)*

Immediately Jesus quotes the prophets of ancient of days for the readiness and nearness of His divine return as King. When Christ comes, He comes in complete Glory so that the entire world may bear witness to the true eternal judge.

- This powerful sign represents the DEFEAT of Satan's forces, the PROOF of Christ's coming, and God's perfect JUDGMENT upon the earth. God has always given people the realization of this:

*"As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed." **Daniel 7:13-14** (establish eternal Kingdom)*

*"When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. ⁸ All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord GOD." **Ezekiel 32:7-8** (Fall of Egypt)*

*"Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light." **Isaiah 13:9-10** (Babylon's judgment)*

...Is this a yet future **literal** falling of the stars and blackening of the sun and moon that would be suitable to the return of Christ. In this prophecy, darkness symbolizes judgment. This catastrophic event of continents shifting and volcanic eruptions of Ash will cause a darkened sun and a blood-tent on the moon caused by the earthquake.

Darkness will fall upon the earth naturally and spiritually. MAKE NO MISTAKE... These are literal signs that will occur just before Christ's return, whether an hour or even simultaneously within the minutes of.

"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

There will be many Christians be alive at the time of Christ's return. They will not be raised from death, but will be transformed and receive a new physical and glorious body.

6. The Coming of the MAN of SIN and the REBELLION

- The SPIRIT of the anti-Christ exists in our world today and this world is under its authority.
- There is always be a choice to REJECT Christ and this is becoming the NORM in our world.

We are not surprised that people are anti-Jesus. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work as mentioned in 1 John 4:3. Our own President is asking of us Christians to tolerate sin for the sake of fellow Americans.

"Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour."

1 John 2:18

*"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." **Galatians 1:10***

We should grieve over the reality that many have completely rejected the truth of God. Roman emperors: Nero and Domitian, both of whom severely persecuted Christians; Adolf Hitler bringing WWII; Joseph Stalin during communist Russia; or even our government who fights for human rights instead what is biblically right. Even if these persecutors of the church were not the antichrist, many of them may be a precursor to the final antichrist.

- The coming of the lawless one by the activity of SATAN will be with all POWER and with PRETENDED signs, and with all WICKED DECEPTION for those who are perishing.

7. The Salvation of ISRAEL (Romans 9-11)

*"I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen." **Romans 9:1-5***

We see Paul's love for his own people—even willing to suffer God's curse for the sake of their salvation. Israel has experienced many blessings of God, yet there are still many Jews who have unbelief. (v 6-8)

*"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." **Romans 10:1-4***

10:14 How will some Jews be saved?

- "Faith comes from HEARING, and hearing through the WORD of Christ." It sounds like the same salvation for the Jews is the same for the Gentiles! Here we see an **ingathering** of Jewish people as they turn to accept Jesus as their Messiah. They are grafted into the Kingdom of God with us, who are the Church. - ISRAEL

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." **Galatians 3:28-29***

With regard to the salvation of the fullness of Israel, we become the spiritually new Israel (nation, holy, chosen people of God) that will be raptured at Jesus Christ's return. I must prepare myself for when my Savior returns in all His Glory because I want to be ready and unashamed even at a moment I do not expect. Are you ready?